

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

April 23, 2015

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325 Report Offers Updates on Transportation System, Employee Profiles

by Matt Hiebert

Missouri’s 325 System is changing the way we serve the state. The primary and supplementary route division is the best we can do with the funding and resources we have.

Now you can keep up with changes in the system – and learn more about the people trying to make a difference -- online at the new 325 Report website.

“This website gives citizens and MoDOT employees a one-stop location for updates on the condition of roads and bridges and the pursuit of a solution,” MoDOT Director Dave Nichols said.

Located at www.modot.org/325report, the website features videos, profiles of MoDOT employees, and various stories focusing on what’s being done to solve the funding shortfall.



Faced with dramatically reduced funding, Missouri will not be able to match federal transportation funds beginning in 2017. MoDOT announced a plan in December that would divide maintenance between primary and supplementary routes with a construction budget of \$325 million.

Primary routes include approximately 8,000 miles of Missouri roads and would be maintained in the condition they are in today. Supplementary routes, the approximately remaining 26,000 miles, would receive limited, routine maintenance. The condition of supplementary routes is expected to degrade over time, and, in some cases, roads and bridges may even have to be closed.

“These will be ongoing concerns over the next few years,” Nichols said.

New Database for Open Records Information

by Patrick Wood

Open record “sunshine” laws require government agencies to operate “in the sunshine,” meaning that work done by a government body should be done publicly and have the capability to be attended or reviewed by the public to ensure accountability.



Missouri’s sunshine law requires that meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public, except those that the statute allows to be closed. As a governmental body that is accountable to the public, it is MoDOT’s policy to comply with sunshine requests.

MoDOT recognizes that the law regarding access to such meetings and records is to be liberally construed. Information, such as the

public records policy, procedure, document list, and statute reference are available at <http://www.modot.org/about/OpenRecords.htm>.

With the transition to Outlook, the former Lotus Notes application for MoDOT’s Sunshine Request Database has been replaced by a web-based database that went live on April 1.

At this time, MoDOT customers can submit online requests by clicking on the “Submit an Open Records Request” link, where

it will take them to the online portal to submit and track the status of their request.

Not all employees access or work on sunshine requests. However, employees who have gathered information for sunshine requests will be able to access the web portal to track and enter information.

Once an open records request is entered into the system, employees receive an automated email notification that they need to gather documents or information related to a specific request. If the employee does not have access to the portal, a STARTS request should be entered for the employee.

If you are an employee that works on sunshine requests and have questions about this new system or are interested in training, contact the Commission Secretary’s Office 573-751-2824.

CONNECT WITH YOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE

?

EAC

EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MoDOT maintains 34,000 miles of roadway.

All of our roads laid end to end would span our globe over 1 1/3 times!
On the flip side, a bee must travel this same distance collecting enough nectar to produce only 10 oz of honey!

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

“In Recycling We Trust” Wins Can Contest

by Linda Wilson-Horn

Missouri public, private and home-school students in grades K-8 participated in the fight against litter in the Show-Me State with the annual “Yes You CAN Make Missouri Litter-Free” trash can decorating contest, sponsored by the Missouri departments of Conservation and Transportation.

Students from Marj Locker’s seventh grade art class at Southwest Livingston Elementary School in Ludlow won the sixth to eighth grade category and the 2015 Grand Prize with their entry, “In Recycling We Trust.”

The annual trash can contest encourages school classes and groups to join in the fight against litter by decorating and displaying a large trash can with the “No More Trash!” logo and a litter-prevention message using a variety of creative media.

The 14 students created a trash can featuring Ernie the Eagle made with real feathers, papier-mâché, acrylic paint, and construction paper. The front of Ernie the Eagle has red, white and blue letters that say “In Recycling We Trust.” The No More Trash! logo is on the back as tail feathers. The white feathers on the head are turkey feathers and the wings are made out of goose feathers from geese hunted in season by one of the students. The portal for trash is a flap in the back of the head that lifts.

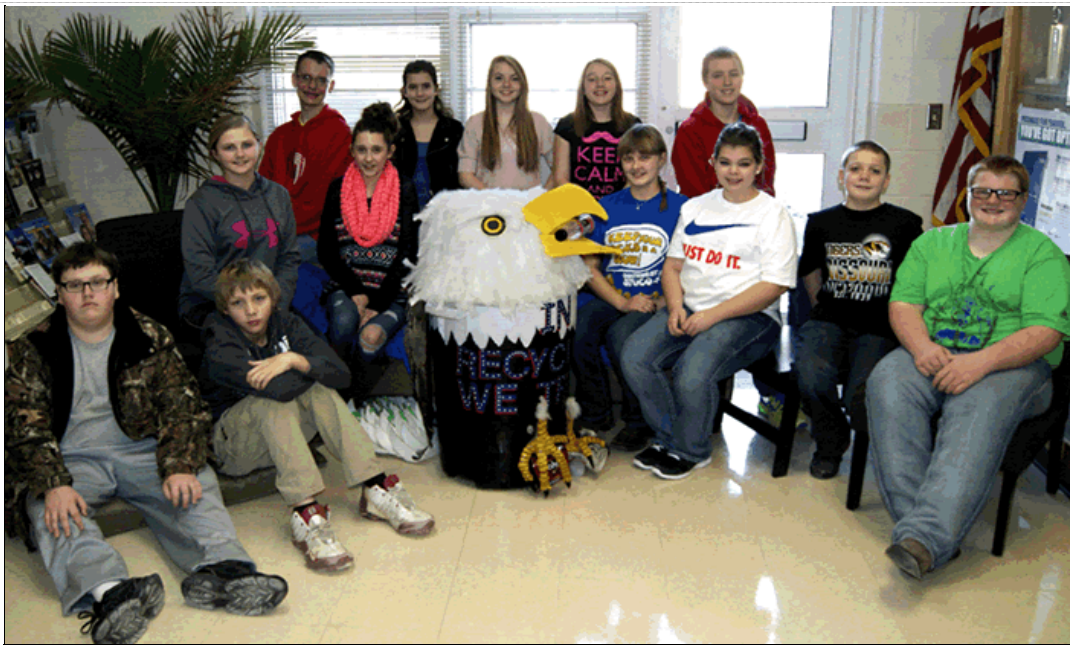
The kindergarten and first grade Girl Scout Daisies and second grade Brownies at Ross Elementary School in St. Louis won the kindergarten to second grade category for their entry, “Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place with No More Trash!”

The third to fifth grade category winner was Jean Schaible’s two fourth and fifth graders at Schaible Homeschool in Union for their entry, “Littering Is For the Birds” featuring the Missouri State Bird the Eastern Bluebird.

See images and information on all entries online at nomoretrash.org/trash-can-contest.



“Ernie the Eagle” reminds students to recycle with the message “In Recycling We Trust.”



Seventh grade students from Southwest Livingston Elementary in Ludlow, Mo., created the 2015 winning entry in the No More Trash! Can Contest.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Day at the Capitol

by Patrick Wood

Earlier this month, advocates for walking and bicycling gathered in front of the Capitol to encourage legislative support for bicycle and pedestrian initiatives.

The event started with the introduction of MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger by the president of the Missouri Bicycling and Walking Federation, Rachel Ruhlen. Hassinger spoke on the need for partnerships to get things done, and the value that comes with those partnerships. Working together with local communities helps determine where bicycle lanes and sidewalks would be the most beneficial, so the best plan can be made.



MoDOT supports pedestrians and bicyclists, and strives to integrate nonmotorized travel to provide efficient connections and focus on the safety of those who depend on walking or bicycling as their everyday method of transportation.

Hassinger also took the opportunity to focus on Missouri's current transportation funding problem. He stated that it is important to invest in all modes of transportation, but there is an urgent need to fix the basic highway system now. Without additional funding, MoDOT won't be able to keep roads and bridges in the condition they are in today. Hassinger concluded by telling everyone to enjoy their ride, and when they finish to go inside the Capitol and talk to their legislators about the need to help all modes of transportation.

After the closing remarks by the speakers, the cyclists took off from the lawn to the Katy Trailhead. During the trip the cyclists used the U.S. 50/63 pedestrian bridge across the Missouri River, which was built through a partnership with MoDOT,

the Department of Natural Resources and Jefferson City.

Missouri Airport Managers Present Friend of Aviation Award to State Senator Mike Kehoe

Missouri State Senator Mike Kehoe was presented the first ever Friend of Aviation Award at the Spring Conference of the Missouri Airport Managers Association (MAMA) at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Mo.



for transportation, serving on the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committees, and on the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight. Senator Kehoe is also active on several civic, military veteran and charitable efforts.

“Mike has always been very supportive and open to issues impacting Missouri airports,” said Brian Weiler, incoming MAMA President and director of the Springfield airport. “He has worked tirelessly to advance the need for increasing investment in Missouri’s total transportation system, including highways, rail, ports, transit, and airports.”

Read the full article on the Aero News Network - [Aviation Award](#).

From the 325 Report

Here's one employee profile from the 325 Report. Visit the website for more profiles and information - www.modot.org/325report.



Curt Stegeman heads MoDOT's bridge inspection dive team.

On the Road: Curt Stegeman Goes to Great Depths for Bridge Safety

Sometimes it’s hard to keep your head above water at work. In Curt Stegeman’s case, he almost never comes up to the surface.

As a bridge inspection technician, Stegeman heads up MoDOT’s bridge inspection dive team. In the capacity, Stegeman leads a crew that inspects the less visible aspects of Missouri’s aging bridges.

[Read more.](#)



What's Happening



Back 2 Basics - Slips, Trips and Falls

The latest Back 2 Basics safety video has been added to the comprehensive safety site. The video, which focuses on actions employees can take to avoid slip, trip and fall injuries, covers safety actions for employees whether working in an office, maintenance facility, or outdoors during winter weather.

Also added to the site is the updated Backing Safety and Circle Check video.

Supervisors should view these and other Back 2 Basics safety videos during morning safety discussions; or at any time to help remind us how to avoid these common workplace incidents.

Click on the image to watch the new video.



Earth Celebrations Feature State Capitol Event and Video Highlighting MoDOT's Shingle Recycling Program

The 21st annual Earth Day celebration, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, will be held on Friday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the State Capitol south lawn. Visit DNR's website for all Earth Day details and to see how you can support the event

with community projects and kid's activities - [Earth Day](#).

MoDOT will be joining the event promoting litter prevention through our [Adopt-A-Highway Program](#), [stormwater pollution prevention](#), and promoting the use of use wildflowers and native grasses.

Also, The American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials is celebrating Earth Day with the release of a new video that shows how some state DOT programs are helping communities become more livable and transportation systems more sustainable. MoDOT's shingle recycling program is featured in the video - <https://youtu.be/eScU8GYHyq4>.

Employee Advisory Council Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's March meeting have been posted on the EAC SharePoint site. You can access them by using this link [March 2015 EAC Minutes](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



April Retirements

John A. Williams – NE – 13 years	Ronald L. Kuhn – SW – 21 years	Mackie L. Gaddis – SE – 31 years
Brent D. Emerson – CD – 27 years	Donivan A. Combs – SW – 25 years	Charles Robinson – SE – 26 years
Lydia A. Elkin – SL – 25 years	Shirley A. Jones – SE – 25 years	Curtis W. Stegeman – CO – 37 years
Dale S. Crane – SL – 16 years	Robert L. Pulliam – SE – 7 years	Kathi M. Bishop – CO – 38 years
Daniel K. Salisbury – SW – 38 years		

In Memoriam

Larry Abbott former D1 – March 24	Clarence Wiltz former D4 – April 2	Karsten Bredesen former D8 – April 8
Ruth Vanskike former D7 – March 26	Ralph Peterson former D9 – April 4	Robert Hayes former D4 – April 13
Joe Jackson former D10 – March 27	Bobby Collins former D2 – April 4	Charles Archer former D10 – April 19
Floyd Mittler former D6 – March 30		

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Central Office

New Highway Safety Director Bill Whitfield Shares Insights on New Position

by Kelly Jackson

A familiar face of MoDOT has filled the role of highway safety director. Bill Whitfield was recently appointed to this position, and he took some time to share his past experience and new ideas as he leads the Office of Highway Safety.

Q: How long have you been with MoDOT?

I have worked for the Office of Highway Safety for 32 years. In 2004 our division was transferred to MoDOT from the Department of Public Safety. When I was in college I even worked as an intern at the MoDOT shed in Osage Beach for two summers. My job included driving dump trucks, loaders, rolling out the cold mix on blade patches, patching pot holes, straightening signs and flagging traffic.

Q: How has your past experience prepared you for this position?

I have been very fortunate to have worked in most all of the programs our office is responsible for managing. This has included work in child passenger safety, and as a member of the team that started the first certified safety belt survey methodology in 1998. Managing the commercial motor vehicle program and extensive work in compiling highway safety plans and annual reports has also been very beneficial experience.

I have worked closely with our data grants, in particular the LETS (Law Enforcement Traffic System). The LETS software evolved into a program that allows for the electronic submission of crash reports to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I have also worked with all of our law enforcement projects throughout the state, including the Click It or Ticket campaign and our impaired driving campaign, “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”. I have had the privilege of working with some great leaders both internally and externally as well as learning from the current highway safety staff.

Q: What are your top priorities and goals as the director of highway safety?

I look forward to preparing the next edition of the Missouri Strategic Highway Safety Plan. I will also begin creating partnerships with Missouri businesses to help educate their employees on the importance of highway safety, and continue working toward increasing Missouri’s safety belt usage rates. I will also work on improving our impaired driving program initiatives. Impaired driving is one crash type that does not have to happen - it is 100 percent preventable, however we can’t lose sight of that fact. I think is important for us to remember the statistics we talk about in fatalities and serious injuries. These are not just numbers, they are mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, relatives, loved ones and friends. All of these numbers have a name. We can’t overlook that aspect of what we do and how we approach highway safety.

Q: What are you looking forward to as you adapt to your new job?

I am looking forward to the new partnerships that will be formed and making sure the current partners and advocates we have are well respected, valued and continually reminded of how important they are to the overall plan of making Missouri’s roadways a safe place to travel. I am also looking forward to working with the fantastic staff in our office. They are a great group of highly motivated individuals that work hard every day to make Missouri’s roadways safer. I am lucky I get to work with them.



Recently appointed Director of Highway Safety Bill Whitfield brings 32 years of experience to his new role.

Mentoring Your Path to Success

by Linda Wilson-Horn

Are you looking for ways to increase your chance of promotion? Or do you enjoy sharing your experiences and helping others? Perhaps you need some guidance on how to handle situations in your job. If so, you need to consider using MoDOT's mentoring program.

MoDOT's mentoring program is designed to positively impact the lives of employees by providing support and learning opportunities that will promote professional development for a diversified and talented work force. This self-guided program provides employees with career guidance and support through the establishment of formal mentorships. You can choose to be a mentor for others or request a mentor for yourself.

On the Road to SUCCESS

The Mentoring Program will guide you there.

New Perspectives

Professional Confidence

Improve Professional Skills

Increase Leadership Skills

Career Networking

Build Work Relationships

Contact: Equal Opportunity and Diversity at equalopportunity@modot.mo.gov or call (573)-526-5611.

While MoDOT's mentoring program has been around for many years, the resources have recently been revamped. The Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division's sharepoint site has a multitude of links to a variety of resources to help you in your skill development.

As you participate in annual MAPS discussion, consider discussing with your supervisor how you can find a mentor or become a mentor.

For questions, comments, or concerns feel free to contact Equal Opportunity and Diversity - equalopportunity@modot.mo.gov, 573-526-5611, or <http://sharepoint/facilitation/EOD/mentor/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

Central Office Happenings



Miller Welding Partners with MoDOT for Training Classes

Miller Welding, the world's leading welding equipment manufacturer, has partnered with MoDOT's Human Resources Employee Development to provide no cost training to employees.

Training consists of basic equipment set up, preventive maintenance and safety practices, based specifically on the

equipment that employees will use at their maintenance facilities.

St. Louis was the first district to host this customizable training. Districts interested in the training should contact



First Aid / CPR / AED Classes Available

April 24 - 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12 to 3:30 p.m.
601 West Main, Training Room B

Space is still available for both morning and afternoon sessions. Check with your supervisor, then sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#).

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Spring Meetings

District Engineer Don Wichern and Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy have been on a bit of a road trip recently. Rather than the large group meetings the Northwest District normally holds for spring meetings, Don and Tony met with each maintenance facility, project office and employees at the district office in small groups. Not only were they able to talk about issues specific to each area, but it allowed a dialogue that isn't available in larger groups. With 23 counties and more than ten thousand square miles to cover, they were on the road a lot. But the ability to have a good discussion, sometimes share a meal, and visit every corner of the district over the course of a month, was definitely worth all the time behind the wheel.



Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy discussed the plan for supplementary and primary roads under Missouri's 325 System.



District Engineer Don Wichern and Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy engaged in a Q and A session with each small group with whom they met, including this group at the district office.

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Think First!

The Northeast Region Coalition for Roadway Safety once again partnered with KTVO, a television station in Kirksville, to provide speakers to high schools in their viewing area. Milan High School was one of the schools participating in the program, so the Northeast Region Coalition extended an invite to the Northwest Region Coalition to attend. A huge thank you to the entire Northeast Region Coalition, to KTVO and to Kayle Denny, a speaker with Think First! Missouri for the important message about roadway safety she brought to the Milan High School students. Ms. Denny was a 17-year-old high school student when her vehicle hydroplaned. She overcorrected and the vehicle crashed. Ms. Denny was not wearing a seatbelt and suffered a spinal cord injury to her C-5 and C-6 vertebrae.



Kayle Denny, a speaker with Think First! Missouri, spoke with the Milan High School students about the



Students at Milan High School try to catch items tossed into the crowd at a Think First! assembly held

decisions she made that led to her injury in a vehicle crash.

at their school. The items included messages reminding them to make better and safer decisions.

Around the District



Representatives from MPERS invited MoDOT and MSHP employees who are nearing retirement eligibility and their spouses to attend a pre-retirement seminar recently at the district office.



MPERS representatives went over calculating which plan to choose, when you're eligible, back drop and many other options available to MoDOT and MSHP employees as they near retirement eligibility.

On the Move



Have you joined one of the plans encouraging a healthier lifestyle? Coventry has teamed with the American Heart Association. Employees can track their activity at StartWalkingNow.org. Some lucky employees received a free pedometer for registering early and the NW District's own Senior Highway Designer Maria Longoria won a FitBit Flex! It's not too late to sign up!



Barrel Betty has been on the move lately, too! Senior Customer Service Representative Lisa Kellison spotted Barrel Betty on U.S. Hwy 36 near Chillicothe, where she was reminding motorists to slow down and pay attention behind the wheel.

For more info

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St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Bridge Replacement Begins at Clear Creek



Pictured is Clear Creek Bridge on MO 168 in Marion County. It was closed on April 20 for replacement.

One of the last remaining bridges on a supplementary road in northeast closed for replacement earlier this week. MO 168 just north of Hannibal serves as a vital connector to major industry, the university and other businesses, as well as serving area residents. Due to insufficient funding for overwhelming needs, there are only a few other bridges on supplementary roads scheduled for replacement over the next few years.

The current bridge is more than 80 years old, is one lane and load posted. The bridge will cost around \$740,000 to replace. The bridge is expected to reopen before the 4th of July holiday.

Coalition Holds Child Safety Seat Class

The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety sponsored a certified child passenger safety technician class in April. There are very few of these valued resources in the region, which is why the Coalition offered the course.

"The more resources and technicians we have available to assist families with car seat installment, the safer children are in a vehicle," said Marisa Ellison, facilitator for the Northeast Coalition.

Kathy Zents and Joe Schilling, certified trainers, led the class. Participants learned about topics ranging from motor vehicle laws, crash dynamics and vehicle safety, to talking to parents about safety. There were also demonstrations throughout the class. Eight individuals became certified through this class.

A child safety event was held on April 10 at the Kirksville Fire Department following the course to allow the individuals to put their skills and knowledge to the test.

For a list of certified technicians in the Northeast Region, you can visit the web site <http://savemolives.com/regions-connect/northeast>.



A child safety seat event was held on April 10 at the Kirksville Fire Department. Aaron Pippen, a recently certified technician, is shown checking an infant seat during the event.

Around the District...



Kevin Rhodes, outreach coordinator (aka Buckles), and Marisa Christy-Kerns, in customer relations, attended the Week of the Young Child event held in Moberly on April 13.



Teri Zeiger, in customer relations, and Joe McNeill, in design, attended the Watlow Health Fair in Hannibal that was held on April 16th. Participants were put to the test to see how well they knew roadway safety.



With some good weather, crews in the south area began doing some hot mix repairs over the last couple of weeks.



Kayle Denny of ThinkFirst Missouri spoke to high school students at Milan High School on April 17. Kayle spoke about how her life has changed after suffering a spinal cord injury in an accident since she was not wearing her seat belt. The assembly was put on as part of the KTVO Just Drive campaign. Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is a sponsor in that campaign.



Macon Comfort Inn helped spread the message about the importance of not texting and driving.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District

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Employees Gain New Perspective on Leadership Through Training

by Shaunda White



Amy Twellmann (standing) leads employees into interactive group sessions during the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership training on April 15.

An ambitious group of maintenance employees embraced an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills through a two-day training course last week. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* course provides employees with lessons on how to increase effectiveness, gain influence and identify unknown weaknesses.

The leadership course is offered as part of the Maintenance Leadership Academy. It provides in depth lessons about how practicing the 21 specific laws of leadership leads to personal and organizational success.

“This training helps employees identify their strengths and weaknesses. It helps them realize what areas they need improvement in, while also showing them what they are extremely good at as well. At the end of the training, I received a lot of positive feedback about how the class really helped them,” said Amy Twellmann, assistant district maintenance engineer.

The second half of the training will continue in June. Some employees have already expressed their eagerness to complete the course.

“I found this training class to be extremely beneficial and I truly enjoyed the group discussions. It gave me a much better understanding of leadership as a whole. I look forward to implementing the valuable lessons that I have learned from this training into my career here at MoDOT,” said Bennetez Meeks, senior maintenance technician.

District Blood Drive Helps Save Lives

Thanks to the generosity of some St. Louis employees, more than 60 lives will be saved throughout the region. The district blood drive, held earlier this month, collected 22 lifesaving units of blood for patients in the area.

Everyday blood bank supplies fluctuate and the need for donations are consistent. The St. Louis district takes great pride in helping out the community when in need and will continue to host blood drives bi-annually.

The district’s next blood drive is scheduled in the fall of this year.



Margaret Bruns donates blood at the MS Valley Regional Blood drive held in front of the district office on April 15.

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Central District

Central District Bridges Get a Bath

Bridge flushings are a sure sign of winter’s end and the beginning of spring. Crews are busy giving Central District bridges their annual spring cleaning, cleansing them of salt, cinders and other materials used to treat and clear the roadways during the winter months.

The work consists of flushing the bridge deck, washing the barrier wall or curbing on the bridge and opening and unclogging bridge drains. At right, Jefferson City maintenance employees give the Missouri River bridges near Jefferson City a bath.



What's Happening

Spring Meetings Provide Information Sharing Opportunity

Central District Engineer David Silvester and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner recently met with maintenance employees during three spring meetings held throughout the district. The meetings give employees a chance to learn more about what’s going on in the district and at MoDOT and to ask any questions they might have. Information on working with incarcerated crews, backhoe/loader safety and SHRP-2 traffic incident management training was also presented at the meetings. Two meetings for district office staff are planned for Monday, April 27.



Customer Service 101

Senior Customer Service Representative Janis Gieck talks with participants in the Central District Maintenance Leadership Academy about customer service center operations. Gieck, along with fellow Senior Customer Service Representatives Tina Grothoff and Scott Smith, briefed the academy attendees on the tools they use, including the contacts map, TMS, and the call report database.



Around the District



Members of the Central District Coalition for Roadway Safety took part in a health and safety fair at Columbia's Douglass High School on April 18. Students were given the opportunity to learn more about the effects of drinking and driving as they attempted to operate tricycles around barriers while wearing the fatal vision goggles.



Central District Senior Electricians Randall Vandelicht (kneeling) and Tudor Rafa take advantage of the spring weather to work on a signal box at the Missouri Boulevard and Route 54 interchange in Jefferson City. Crews are performing preventative maintenance on the signals.

Jefferson City Project Office Resident Engineer Terry Imhoff was profiled in the Sunday, April 18, edition of the Jefferson City News Tribune. The article detailed Terry's calling to be an engineer and talked about his duties overseeing MoDOT construction projects. You can read the full article [here](#).



Human Resources employees Wes Stout, Cheyanne Stark and Stacy Kaiser recently represented MoDOT at the Jefferson City News Tribune job fair. The trio were part of a joint effort to recruit for Central District and Central Office positions.

For more info

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Kansas City District

Kansas City District Begins Two Major Bridge Projects

This week the Kansas City District kicked off two major bridge rehabilitation projects, but on opposite ends of the district.

Northland Feels the Pinch of Construction Season

Crews began work to rehabilitate 12 bridges along the I-29 corridor between I-435 and I-635 that will continue for six months. Work will cause lane reductions, narrow lanes, and ramp closures. The following impacts will be underway;

- Two lanes of I-29 will be maintained in each direction between 112th Street and Route 45 (64th Street).
- I-29 will be reduced to one lane at the KCI Airport entrance at exit 13 (Route D (Cookingham Drive) for each direction for 80 calendar days.
- The ramp from eastbound Route 152 to southbound I-29 will be closed for the duration of the project.
- I-29 lanes will be narrowed at the bridge locations.
- Temporary lane closures may be encountered on Route D (Cookingham Drive), 112th Street, Tiffany Springs Parkway, Barry Road, 72nd Street, and Route 45 (64th Street) during off peak hours.



Motorists and employees headed to Kansas City International Airport (KCI) should make the appropriate adjustments to meet departure and arrival times.

Lanes of I-70 Closed Most of Summer

Bridge rehabilitation also begins months of construction along the I-70 corridor from the Blackwater Bridges in Saline County to the Cooper County line.

The westbound bridge will complete mid-August and the eastbound bridge will complete in mid-September. This is a full 24/7 lane closure but work will be performed during daytime hours and will reduce lanes to 12 foot, and cause heavy congestion through the area. This will be followed by pavement work to the Cooper County line.

More than 26,000 vehicles travel this corridor of I-70 daily, of which 40 percent includes truck traffic. Roadside message boards will be updated with estimated travel time as it is available.



Keep track of these projects and others on MoDOT Kansas City on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Emergency Bridge Closure Impacts Key Interchange in Downtown Kansas City

Following a routine inspection, MoDOT Kansas City crews were forced to temporarily close the I-70 eastbound to I-35 southbound ramp bridge until further notice.

During the annual inspection engineers found significant deterioration to the structure of the ramp bridge. This is an aging bridge built in 1967, which thousands of vehicles use daily.

It is one of 1,400 bridges in the Kansas City region. Statewide, Missouri has over 10,000 bridges to maintain. All bridges are inspected regularly in accordance to federal law, typically every two years. If

a bridge has known problems, it is inspected more frequently.

For more information, [review the current bridge closures](#) on [www.modot.org](#).



Communications Director Tours KC Projects

MoDOT Communications Director Fay Fleming visited with staff throughout the Kansas City District last week. She visited several maintenance teams and project sites, including the [Manchester Bridge Project](#), the [U.S. 69 Missouri River Bridges project](#) and the emergency bridge closure on I-70 eastbound to I-35 southbound.



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Comments & Suggestions

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Southwest District

Southwest District at Work



MEETING THE CUSTOMERS – Joplin Resident Engineer Jason Evenden talks with a customer at an open house meeting about planned improvements to Route 60 in Neosho. The project is a partnership with the City of Neosho and the Neosho Transportation Development District. (Photo/David Mitchell)



CLASS PARTICIPATION – Greg Chapman, Deputy Director of the Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville (holding the red sign, upper right) participates in a diversity outreach event with students at Missouri State University. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Laurel McKean Named New Southwest District Assistant District Engineer

by Angela Eden



Laurel McKean, Southwest District Assistant District Engineer

Laurel McKean, a 19-year MoDOT veteran, has been named the Southwest District’s new Assistant District Engineer.

McKean will manage Operations, overseeing Maintenance, Traffic, General Services and Risk Management.

She also will be the face of MoDOT, working with local, state and federal lawmakers, chambers of commerce, business leaders and the public in Jasper, Newton, McDonald and Lawrence counties. In addition, she will work with MoDOT’s adjoining state departments of transportation including northwest Arkansas, northeast Oklahoma and southeast Kansas.

McKean, who grew up in Springfield, began her MoDOT career in 1996 as a construction inspector at the Branson Project Office, overseeing highway construction projects including the construction of the Branson Maintenance and Project Office complex on the north side of Branson.

She served as a senior traffic studies specialist and a traffic operations engineer in the former District 8 in Springfield. One of her main duties was co-manager of the Traffic Management Center of the Ozarks which MoDOT operates in partnership with the city of Springfield to coordinate traffic

signals in the Springfield metro area.

McKean has also served as a project manager, working out of MoDOT's District Office in Macon. Her most recent MoDOT position was District Traffic Engineer in the Kansas City District.

McKean has an extensive background in traffic management, highway construction and highway design and is a licensed professional engineer.

She is a 1996 graduate of the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, earning a degree in civil engineering.

McKean replaces long-time Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury who retired April 1 after a 37-year career with MoDOT.

Groundbreaking Signals Start of Improvements to Route 60 in Neosho

by David Mitchell

After years of planning, a groundbreaking ceremony held Monday, April 20, signaled the official beginning of construction of improvements to Route 60 in Neosho.

The ceremony at the Neosho Middle School was attended by more than 50 people, including Neosho residents, local government officials, school district members and MoDOT leaders.

The \$5.3 million project features two new intersections on Route 60 east of Kodiak Road, new outer roads on either side of Route 60, the extension of Laramie Lane and Hale McGinty Drive and other intersection improvements.

A transportation development district was formed to help fund the project. After years of planning and working with the Neosho community, the project is now ready to be built.

"This is a partnership with the city, the TDD and MoDOT," said District Engineer Becky Baltz at the groundbreaking event. "We hit a few snags along the way, but it is exciting to have the official groundbreaking event today. The end result is a project that improves traffic flow and safety, enhances mobility and prepares the area to attract future development."



Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz (far right) along with members of the Neosho Transportation Development District turn shovels of dirt marking the official start of a project to make a number of intersection improvements along Route 60 in Neosho. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Traffic Impact During Construction:

- Possible nighttime lane closings between the hours of 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- At least one lane of traffic open in each direction on Route 60.
- There will be little traffic impact on Route 60 early in the project. In the beginning the contractor will be concentrating on building the new outer roads.

Project Background:

- Build new intersection on Route 60 at Adams Drive
- Build new intersection on Route 60 at Laramie Lane & Hearthside Street
- Build new outer roads north and south of Route 60
- Extend Hale McGinty Drive south to Adams Drive
- Improve intersection at Kodiak Road & Norway Road
- Improve intersection at Hale McGinty Drive & Waldo Hatler Memorial Drive
- Partnership between MoDOT, Neosho Transportation Development District and the City of Neosho

The prime contractor on the project is APAC-Missouri of Springfield. The project is scheduled for completion by the first of November.

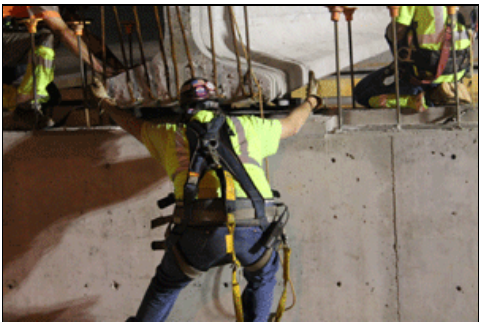
This is likely to be one of the last cost share projects in smaller communities in the district. MoDOT needs \$160 million to ensure funds Missourians spend on Federal fuel taxes can be matched and returned to the state.

Milestone Reached, First Girders Placed At Battlefield Road /Route 65

Interchange Reconstruction Project



Contractor crews hoist a girder into place as part of the Battlefield Road/Route 65 Interchange Reconstruction project in Springfield. When complete this fall, the will project feature a new higher, slightly wider bridge over Route 65 with a Diverging Diamond traffic pattern. (Photo /David Mitchell)



A member of the Hartman Construction crew uses hand signals to place a bridge girder for the south half of the new Battlefield Road bridge at Route 65. Placing bridge girders takes a lot of coordination and communication. (Photo /David Mitchell)

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast District Wraps Up Spring Employee Meetings

Long-Term Safety Award Recipients Recognized

The Southeast District recently wrapped up the Spring 2015 Employee Meetings. MoDOT’s current funding situation and proposed solutions by Missouri legislators were some of the primary topics during the meetings.

In addition, Human Resources Manager Donna Ferkel presented information regarding mental health, with assistance from Maurice Farr, who serves as a Maintenance Crew Leader and member of the SE District’s Employee Advisory Committee. The presentation focused on educating employees about mental illness in hopes of removing any stigma.

Farr noted that even comedian Robin Williams struggled with mental illness, despite his outgoing, cheerful personality that he presented to the world.

Health and Safety Manager Enos Criddle also shared information about safety and why taking a bit of extra time to complete tasks, such as a lock out tag out, is important.



Human Resources Manager Donna Ferkel presents information regarding mental health to employees at the Van Buren maintenance facility.

Long-term safety award recipients were recognized and presented their awards during the meetings. Employees included:

- 15 years:**

 - Amos Purcell
 - Helen Morris
 - Charles Corlew
 - Joseph Mullen
 - Akera Nelson
 - Larry Davis
 - James Adams
 - Shannon Chidester
 - Claude Bright
 - Michael Crudgington
 - Scotty Earnheart
 - Brent Grandstaff
 - Jonathan Estes
 - Steven Smith
 - Danny Bedwell
 - Tammy Hefner
 - Gary Adams
 - Danny Heuring
 - Gary Beauchamp
 - Brent Campbell
 - Joseph Dorris
 - Gregory Van Horn
- 20 Years:**

 - Ronald Wilson
 - Ronald King
 - Joe Lemmon
 - Eric Henson
 - Gary Copeland
 - Tommy Smith
 - Jesse Earls
 - Scottie Smith
 - Christopher Brock
 - Dennis Mitchell
 - Norman Malkowski
 - Randall Sutton
 - Allen Friedrich
- 25 Years:**

 - Charles Robinson
 - James Robinson
 - Jackie Vermillion
 - Donald Weaver
 - Roy Gaither
 - William Goodman
 - Tim Beavers

Tommy White
Daniel Autrey
Randal Ewing
John Caldwell
Randy Henry
Stanley Snider
Larry Lizenbee

30 Years:
Mackie Gaddis
Reginald House

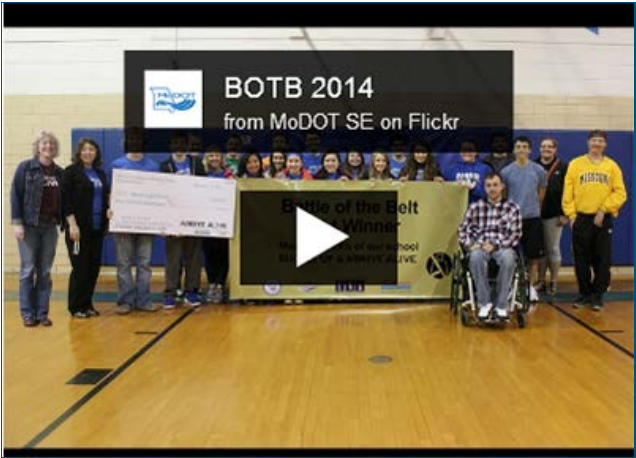
Coalition Presents Checks, Banners for Seat Belt Efforts to Local Schools

With 23 Southeast Missouri schools participating in 2014 Battle of the Belt Challenge, the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety has been busy over the past couple of months presenting checks and banners to the winners.

Bernie High School achieved the highest overall percentage of seat belt use and East Prairie High School was named the most improved.

In addition, the following Southeast Missouri schools achieved gold (99-100 percent usage), silver (95-98 percent usage) and bronze (91-94 percent usage) levels:

- Saxony Lutheran High School 99.00% (Gold Banner)
- Notre Dame Regional High School 98.34% (Silver Banner)
- Oak Ridge High School 97.44% (Silver Banner)
- Thomas W. Kelly High School 94.67% (Bronze Banner)
- Norwood High School 94.12% (Bronze Banner)
- Lesterville High School 92.86% (Bronze Banner)
- Clearwater High School 90.72% (Bronze Banner)



Click the image above or visit www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se to view photos from the high schools the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety recently visited.

Jackson High School will also receive a participation banner for the greatest number of students surveyed.

Photos are available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se/sets/72157652111528191/.

The SE District’s award presentations will wrap up this Friday (April 24) at Lesterville High School. The school will receive a bronze banner for achieving nearly 93 percent seat belt usage.

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